



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 6

January Session, 2005

House Bill No. 6600

House of Representatives, March 1, 2005

The Committee on Human Services reported through REP. VILLANO of the 91st Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE CONTINUATION OF HEALTH INSURANCE FOR PERSONS FORMERLY EMPLOYED IN BOARD OF EDUCATION AND SERVICES FOR THE BLIND WORKSHOPS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (e) of section 5-259 of the general statutes is
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
3 *passage*):

4 (e) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section,
5 (1) vending stand operators eligible for membership in the state
6 employee's retirement system pursuant to section 5-175a, shall be
7 eligible for coverage under the group hospitalization and medical and
8 surgical insurance plans procured under this section, provided the cost
9 for such operators' insurance coverage shall be paid by the Board of
10 Education and Services for the Blind from vending machine income
11 pursuant to section 10-303, and (2) blind persons employed in
12 workshops, established pursuant to section 10-298a, on December 31,

13 2002, shall be eligible for coverage under the group hospitalization and
14 medical and surgical insurance plans procured under this section,
15 provided the cost for such persons' insurance coverage shall be paid by
16 the Board of Education and Services for the Blind.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	5-259 (e)
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HS *Joint Favorable*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note**State Impact:**

Agency Affected	FY 06 \$	FY 07 \$
Board of Education & Services for the Blind	None	None

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill will result in no additional cost to the state. The FY 05 Midterm Budget Adjustments included funding for vocational rehabilitation and supported employment services for the former Industries Program clients. This included providing full or supplemental health insurance coverage.

OLR Bill Analysis

HB 6600

AN ACT CONCERNING THE CONTINUATION OF HEALTH INSURANCE FOR PERSONS FORMERLY EMPLOYED IN BOARD OF EDUCATION AND SERVICES FOR THE BLIND WORKSHOPS.**SUMMARY:**

This bill makes blind people who were formerly employed in the Board of Education and Services for the Blind's (BESB) Industries workshops on December 31, 2002 eligible to receive the group health insurance coverage that BESB provided when they were employed there. This change conforms the statute to BESB's current practice, which is to offer full or supplemental health coverage for the former Industries clients to the extent they are not covered by other insurance. EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

BACKGROUND***BESB Industries Closure in 2003***

BESB formerly operated an Industries Division, which provided jobs and job training to 92 blind people. The division was shut down in January 2003. PA 03-3, June 30 Special Session, provided funding for job and vocational training, job support, and other services for the people who were in the Industries program when it closed. In October 2003, BESB contracted with four providers (Goodwill, CW Resources, Kennedy Center, and Marrakech) to provide services to the former BESB Industries clients and help them find other competitive, supported, or sheltered employment, as needed.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Human Services Committee

Joint Favorable Report

Yea 14 Nay 0